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# RECONVENED TECHNICAL MEETING ON THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR FOR THE WORLD'S INDIGENOUS PEOPLE HELD IN ACCORDANCE WITH GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 46/128

Geneva, 3-5 August 1992

Note by the Secretariat


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## Introduction

1. The Technical Meeting on the International Year for the World's Indigenous People which was held from 9 to 11 March 1992 affirmed the importance of the Year. It recommended that a further meeting be reconvened in Geneva for three days, before the tenth session of the Working Group on Indigenous Populations. To ensure maximum participation by indigenous people and by representatives of intergovernmental organizations, the meeting has been scheduled to take place immediately following the conclusion of the Working Group on Indigenous Populations.

2. The Technical Meeting suggested that programmes and activities could be grouped under six major themes: human rights, development and environment, education and culture, health, self-management and self-government, and public events and information. The recommendations and summaries of points and suggestions made at the Technical Meeting are available in document E/CN.4/1992/AC.4/TM/8. It is expected that having considered these points and suggestions, representatives of indigenous peoples will now have further developed their planning for the celebration of the Year and will have a number of proposals to put forward at this meeting.

3. Since the March meeting, correspondence has been received which indicates considerable support for the Year across a range of United Nations agencies, Governments and indigenous peoples' organizations. The response has been positive and it is expected that the reconvened meeting will provide the guidance that agencies, Governments and indigenous peoples' organizations, as well as the Coordinator of the Year, are now seeking in order to consolidate their thinking and planning for activities for the Year.

4. A number of conferences and meetings have been held since March. In particular, the outcome of the United Nations Technical Conference on Practical Experience on the Realization of Sustainable and Environmentally Sound Self-Development of Indigenous Peoples, held at Santiago from 18 to 22 May 1992, has far-reaching implications for indigenous peoples. The working principles and recommendations from this meeting have particular relevance to the Year and need to be considered in any programme of activities to celebrate the Year. Likewise, the recommendations from the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, held at Rio De Janeiro from 1 to 12 June 1992, will also set directions for any agenda developed for the Indigenous Year.

5. Awareness of the Year has been raised with United Nations agencies and many are now actively considering how their programmes and agendas may draw from and have an impact upon the Year. For example, the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme, at its meeting in May 1992, invited the Administrator to contribute to the programme of activities for the Year as outlined in the annex to General Assembly resolution 46/128. The Administrator also presented a report on activities to be undertaken by the Organization in 1993. It may also be noted that the World Conference on Human Rights will take place in June 1993 during the International Year and that some appropriate measures may be taken to reflect this.

6. As previously advised, the Coordinator of the Year has requested Governments to send qualified staff during the Year to join a small group to assist in the coordination of the planning and implementation of activities for the International Year. A number of Governments have responded positively to this proposal and the first member of this proposed group of indigenous experts commenced duties at the Centre for Human Rights at Geneva in June. It is expected that at least two others will have joined the office by September 1992.

## I. AIMS AND THEMES

7. As noted at the previous Technical Meeting, planning for the year is guided by resolutions 45/146 and 46/128 of the General Assembly, resolution 1991/57 of the Commission on Human Rights, resolutions 1990/29 and 1991/33 of the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, as well as the Secretary-General's report to the General Assembly on the Year (A/46/543).

8. In proclaiming 1993 the International Year for the World's Indigenous People, the General Assembly recognized the problems faced by indigenous peoples along with the value and the diversity of their cultures, including forms of social organization. There are nearly 300 million indigenous peoples in the world and the United Nations system as a whole recognizes the need for a better understanding of their diverse problems and aspirations.

9. The purposes of the Year are to strengthen international cooperation for solving problems faced by indigenous peoples and to raise public awareness of indigenous cultures through international and national activities, as outlined in the annex to General Assembly resolution 46/128. The underlying objective of these operational and promotional activities is the enhancement of the participation of indigenous peoples in the planning, implementation and evaluation of projects affecting them. This objective is also implicit in the theme chosen for the Year: "Indigenous People - A New Partnership".

10. It is suggested that this Technical Meeting consider the specific programmes which will significantly benefit indigenous peoples. General Assembly resolution 46/128 identifies, in particular, programmes with human rights, development and the environment, education and health as their focus. However, there are other issues of special concern to indigenous peoples and these include land tenure, resource management, language and institution building. Certain Governments and indigenous peoples are also discussing self-management and self-government arrangements. (See, for example, the Report of the Meeting of Experts to review the experience of countries in the operation of schemes of internal self-government for indigenous peoples, document E/CN.4/1992/42).

11. In planning actual projects for the Year, account must be taken of the distinctive characteristics of indigenous peoples and the special relationships which they have with their environment. The implications of these relationships need to be considered when determining policies which affect indigenous people. For example, the displacement of peoples from their historically occupied territory, even with monetary and land compensation, is often totally unacceptable to indigenous peoples. Furthermore, to impose

programmes without the sometimes lengthy consultations with traditional decision-making institutions based on debate and consensus, which is characteristic of many indigenous communities, may bring dissent rather than improved conditions. A knowledge about these and other features of indigenous society are necessary for the successful planning and implementation of projects.

12. A possible objective of all projects initiated during the Year may be to draw upon the existing skills and knowledge of indigenous peoples. Indigenous peoples have special expertise in environmental protection, resource management and rehabilitation of degraded ecosystems. They have also developed programmes of their own in areas such as education, health, legal aid, land titling and communications. It may well be useful to explore the possibilities of assisting exchanges between indigenous peoples who face similar problems and have solutions, in preference to using outside experts. The meeting might discuss whether it would be possible to implement such a policy.

Inter-agency coordination

13. Increased cooperation within the United Nations system must be seen as an important objective of the Year. At the request of the General Assembly, the Centre For Human Rights, as the coordinating institution for the Year, will work closely with the International Labour Organisation which has a long-standing concern for indigenous and tribal peoples as a consequence of its Conventions Nos. 107 (1957) and 169 (1989). However, there is a need for exchange of information, experience and ideas among United Nations bodies as well as strengthening of international cooperation at the programme and project levels. Two inter-agency meetings on indigenous peoples have taken place at the initiative of the International Labour Organisation in May 1990 and December 1991, and the Centre for Human rights will organize a third meeting on 6 August 1992, immediately following the Technical Meeting on the Year. Furthermore, at the Fourth Inter-Agency Meeting on Human Rights held on 25 June 1992, the Year was also discussed. A number of suggestions were made to ensure coordination during the Year. It was suggested that each United Nations agency could:

(a) Establish a focal point for the Year;

(b) Produce guidelines for projects for indigenous people to be carried out during the Year;

(c) Produce information for indigenous peoples about relevant programmes in various indigenous languages;

(d) Inform the Coordinator of events and programmes planned;

(e) Recruit indigenous people as experts and advisers during the year;

(f) Provide opportunities for young indigenous people to learn about their work;

(g) Participate in preparatory meetings for the Year;

(h) Ensure that country representatives approach indigenous people to request local assessments of their needs;

(i) Set aside special funds for the Year and inform the Coordinator of these initiatives.

## II. GUIDELINES AND MODEL PROJECTS

14. It is expected that a sum of US$ 500,000 will be raised through contributions to the special Voluntary Fund for the International Year. This funding will be used to stimulate a wide range of activities, when feasible in cooperation with indigenous peoples and non-governmental organizations. As mentioned above, at the March Technical Meeting, six major themes for the Year were developed and a number of directions were suggested under each of the themes, but these suggestions need to be related to practical applications. Furthermore, the Coordinator has drafted a set of guidelines (see annex I) which will be considered, refined and then formalized. The finalized guidelines will be distributed to interested groups and organizations.

15. It is recommended that an information brochure be published, detailing the purpose and scope of the grants programme, the guidelines and information about the application process. United Nations support for demonstration projects funded from this source will be a positive outcome for the Year. It has been suggested that support for the most practical and innovative proposals from Governments and non-governmental organizations for initiatives in education and development would attract more widespread grass-roots indigenous participation in the Year (E/CN.4/Sub.2/1990/41). The publication of the results of these projects would form part of the evaluation of the International Year.

16. Indigenous groups will be encouraged to consider developing small projects of a practical nature which they might reasonably expect to be of lasting benefit to their people and some suggestions of model projects are given in annex II. Because of the limited funding available, it would not be possible to fund projects of a long-term nature. Most proposals will be considered for seed funding and it would be expected that, should there be a need to extend beyond the end of the International Year, alternative sources of funding would have to be found. However, there are many ideas that could be developed into small projects that could be completed in the Year. For example, small research projects set up to examine specific issues could be completed within the time-frame of one year. However, such initiatives could be expanded, as the research may stimulate many other questions and suggest further areas of investigation. Having successfully completed a small project initially, groups would be in a position to seek further support from other sources for an expanded project.

17. For such research projects during the Year, indigenous groups could appoint indigenous experts to carry out specialist research on, for example, matters of cultural significance, language and oral history projects, traditional medicines and foods, habitats and traditional methods of environmental protection. Respected elders who hold traditional knowledge may qualify as researchers although it is possible that they do not possess formal academic qualifications. A number of these demonstration research initiatives

could be carried out simultaneously during the Year and the results published in a report or book at the end of the Year. If possible, a series of these projects, each with a different focus, could be developed across the major regional groupings thus providing a worldwide network to link diverse peoples. A summary of the projects and activities proposed by Governments, indigenous peoples' organizations and non-governmental entities is contained in the addendum to this document.

## III. PUBLIC INFORMATION CONSIDERATIONS

18. As already noted, considerable planning has taken place since the previous meeting regarding the public relations requirements to support the Year and to provide the necessary high profile required to focus global attention on the situation of the world's indigenous peoples. The United Nations Postal Adminstration has arranged for a special postmark cancellation for the Year. Individual nations may wish to follow this lead, or arrange for the issue of special commemorative stamps or coins. Greenland has already advised that a special stamp will be issued.

19. The Coordinator has sought the assistance of the United Nations Department of Public Information to produce a poster, a brochure, fact sheets and press kit to draw attention to the Year's activities. All items will be produced in the six official languages of the United Nations. Once the items are available, they should be produced in sufficient quantities to ensure that there is a wide distribution across indigenous and mainstream communities. The theme of the Year, "Indigenous Peoples - A New Partnership" will be used to raise awareness in non-indigenous communities and will encourage, through positive media coverage, these communities to contribute to the Year and to the future of indigenous populations.

20. In paragraph 8 (c) of resolution 46/128, the General Assembly decided to conduct the opening ceremonies of the International Year for the World's Indigenous People at its forty-seventh session in 1992. Thus, the resolution calls for the proclamation of the opening of the Year at a formal meeting of the General Assembly. The United Nations Centre for Human Rights and the Department of Public Information have been active in arranging an event to launch the International Year. There have been consultations both within the Secretariat and with indigenous people on possible plans for the opening. Consultations indicate that 10 December 1992 (International Human Rights Day) would be a suitable date because of the positive symbolism of Human Rights Day internationally. The choice of day emphasizes the international character of the Year as pertaining to all tribal and indigenous peoples in the world.

21. It is extremely important to ensure that the format of the opening ceremonies provides the correct focus and that the participation of indigenous leaders is accorded the highest priority. Preliminary arrangements have been made to reserve meeting time at the General Assembly plenary on that day. The opening of the International Year at a General Assembly plenary meeting could be in two parts. At a formal plenary meeting the Year would be declared open by the President of the Assembly, the Secretary-General and representatives of regional groups. Participation of indigenous peoples' representatives at such a meeting is not possible under the rules of procedure, unless they are part of delegations of Member States. It is of the utmost significance for

indigenous peoples that they be heard by the General Assembly. Their participation at this historic juncture is seen by them as a test of the credibility of the United Nations; the United Nations has an opportunity to practise the "new partnership", the theme chosen by the General Assembly for the International Year.

22. The second part of the opening ceremonies would respond to these concerns, and could be the following: after a solemn opening of the Year during the General Assembly plenary the (formal) meeting of the Assembly would be suspended and the opening ceremony would begin in the General Assembly Hall. This part of the meeting could be opened by the Coordinator of the International Year. A number of indigenous representatives would then make statements which could be followed by an indigenous event which would be of both spiritual and cultural significance. The choice of indigenous representatives to address the opening ceremony, obviously a limited number, would have to reflect the geographical areas where indigenous people live. The choice would be made through consultations between the Centre for Human Rights and indigenous peoples' organizations. A number of United Nations bodies could be involved in the organization of the event and the reception that would follow the opening ceremonies. An outcome of the Technical Meeting could be a recommendation on the choice of indigenous representative to address the opening ceremonies. Furthermore, it is expected that individual nations will wish to celebrate the commencement of the Year with a series of special "commencement day" activities that may, but need not necessarily, be linked around the world through global indigenous participation.

23. A major campaign to stimulate active media coverage of the commencement day ceremonies around the world to ensure that the Year continues to receive international media attention throughout the 12 months is being encouraged. It is hoped that Governments will assist indigenous representatives to participate in the launch of the Year in New York in December, and that they will provide indigenous groups with the means to enable them to design and implement special commencement day celebrations.

Public information activities by the Centre for Human Rights

24. The Centre is considering several suggestions of a public relations nature that could be developed further, and seeks the guidance of this meeting on their acceptance and adoption.

25. Over the past 10 years, indigenous people have participated in the Working Group for Indigenous Populations as well as in a variety of public forums addressing the situation of their people and their relationship with the world. The speeches made by indigenous people in these circumstances are classical statements on their situations and philosophies. A publication containing a collection of these speeches, representing as wide a selection as possible of the world's indigenous peoples, is regarded as a notable and worthwhile project deserving of positive consideration by the meeting.

26. The Meeting of Experts referred to in paragraph 10 above recommended that the Centre prepare a manual on this subject. This project has received financial support from the Government of Denmark and work is currently being

undertaken so that publication can take place during the International Year. The Technical Conference on Environment and Indigenous People also recommended that a manual be produced on this question (see E/CN.4/Sub.2/1992/31).

27. The Coordinator plans to draw together and have published a calendar of events which will provide details of activities scheduled to be held to celebrate the Year. This world calendar of events will be an essential part of the information programme of the Year, and will be available to both indigenous and non-indigenous communities in order to encourage active participation by as many groups as possible in the activities of the Year.

28. A further proposal is to publish a map of the world's indigenous people. Such a map would be of great value in informing the world community of the diversity and strength of indigenous populations. Details about language, cultures and means of subsistence with related environmental information could be included.

29. The establishment of a database and directory of indigenous people and their organizations has been identified as another practical project. Such information, in a readily accessible form, would be of great assistance to indigenous groups, governments and the various agencies of the United Nations system. The Coordinator proposes to publish a newsletter during the International Year for distribution to Governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, as well as other interested institutions and individuals. It is also suggested that, if technically feasible, electronic mail be used to promote the Year.

Annex I

GUIDELINES FOR THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR

A set of general guidelines will be developed for the guidance of applicant organizations seeking grants from the special United Nations Voluntary Fund established to support projects which are specifically designed to promote the objectives set for the International Year for the World's Indigenous People.

It is suggested that, once the draft guidelines have been endorsed, a distinctive brochure be produced incorporating the guidelines and all the information that applicants will require in order to apply for grants.

An inexpensive poster could also be produced, and then the package should be distributed internationally as soon as possible.

DRAFT TEXT FOR BROCHURE INCORPORATING THE GUIDELINES AND INFORMATION FOR APPLICANTS

INTERNATIONAL YEAR FOR THE WORLD'S INDIGENOUS PEOPLE

1993

"INDIGENOUS PEOPLE - A NEW PARTNERSHIP"

The United Nations General Assembly has proclaimed 1993 the International Year for the World's Indigenous People.

In so doing the General Assembly has recognized the problems faced by this population of almost 300 million indigenous people and the value and diversity of the cultures that they represent.

By General Assembly resolution 45/146, a special Voluntary Fund for the International Year was opened for contributions from governments, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental and indigenous peoples' organizations. A target of US$ 500,000 has been set by the Coordinator for contributions to this Fund.

The purposes of the Year are:

- To strengthen international cooperation for solving problems faced by indigenous peoples; and

- To raise public awareness of indigenous cultures through special international and national activities.

These purposes are to be achieved through honouring the objective of enhancing the participation of indigenous people in the planning, implementation and evaluation of projects affecting them.

The following information is provided for the guidance of organizations seeking grants from the United Nations Voluntary Fund established to support projects which are specifically designed to be consistent with the purposes and objective of the International Year for the World's Indigenous People.

GUIDELINES FOR PROJECTS

Projects which comply with the guidelines set out below will receive priority consideration.

FINANCIAL LIMITS

Applications for grants requesting funds up to a limit of US$ 10,000 will be considered.

PROJECT CATEGORIES

Projects should have a principal focus selected from one of the following categories:

- Human Rights;
- Development and Environment;
- Education and Culture;
- Health;
- Self-management and Self-government;
- Public Events and Information.

Projects set up to assist specific target groups which are particularly disadvantaged, such as women, children, youth, the aged and the disabled, are encouraged.

PROJECT AIMS

Although a major public awareness campaign is planned to be initiated by the United Nations, projects sponsored by indigenous groups should aim, wherever possible:

- To increase information to indigenous communities about the United Nations;

- To raise public awareness about the situation of indigenous people;

- To promote understanding of the position of indigenous people.

Projects must directly benefit indigenous people and encourage self-development by ensuring that they are involved in the following ways:

- Projects are to be planned and developed in full consultation with indigenous people;

- Projects are to be implemented by indigenous people;

- Where it is required to engage staff to carry out a project, every effort should be made to employ qualified indigenous persons;

- As far as possible, indigenous networks must be used to support projects.

WHO MAY APPLY FOR A GRANT?

Applications will not be accepted from individuals.

Applicants may be from one of the following categories:

1. Indigenous groups or organizations.

2. Organizations with a majority membership of indigenous persons, and where it is demonstrated clearly that the project has been developed in consultation with indigenous people and that they will be involved in the implementation, delivery and evaluation of it.

3. Organizations which do not have indigenous membership, but are able to demonstrate clearly that the project has been developed in consultation with indigenous people and that they will be involved in the implementation, delivery and evaluation of it.

ENDORSEMENT BY THE INDIGENOUS COMMUNITY

The applicant organization will need to demonstrate that it has the support of indigenous people who will be affected by the project.

The application should be accompanied by letters of support from recognized indigenous bodies and/or leaders.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Organizations that meet one of the above criteria and which are able to provide the necessary letters of support, should apply in writing to the United Nations Voluntary Fund for the International Year for the World's Indigenous People.

The letter should state:

Name of organization
Name of contact person
Address
Telephone
Telefax

Please answer the following questions:

- What are the aims and objectives of the organization?
- What is the title of the proposed project?
- What are the aims and objectives of the proposed project?
- What is the principal focus of this project?
- How will the project be carried out?
- How will this project promote the purposes of the Year and how does this relate to the aims and objectives for projects stated in the guidelines above?
- What is the scope of the project - is it intended to have international, national, regional or local implications?
- Who will benefit from or be most affected by this project?
- What do you expect to have achieved when this project is finalized?
- When do you expect to start and finish this project?

BUDGET

Each proposal should be accompanied by a budget explaining how the funds will be spent under the two main headings:

Capital Costs and Operating Costs

Capital costs are the costs associated with purchasing equipment such as desks, chairs, and the tools needed to carry out a project.

Operating costs are the costs associated with managing the projects such as renting an office, and paying for a telephone, wages and other general administration costs.

Please state the total amount of funds requested: .....

It is in the interests of the applicant to explain that funding would not be ordinarily available from another source for this particular project. This funding is intended for special projects which will highlight the Year.

Where an organization has sought special matching funds from a Government or other agency, and it appears that this request will be successful, this should be stated. A letter of support from that Government or other agency should be provided with this application.

ASSESSMENT

It is in the interests of applicants to ensure that their applications provide as much information as possible about their proposed initiative. Proposals should also be accompanied by letters of endorsement and/or support requested above as these letters will be considered when assessing the applications.

The United Nations is anxious to encourage projects to commence early in 1993, so applications will be assessed progressively as they are received. As the Year commences on 1 January 1993, and only limited funding is available, applicants are encouraged to submit their proposals as soon as possible.

WHERE TO SEND APPLICATIONS

Applications should be addressed to:

.....
.....
.....
.....

## Annex II

### A. Suggestions for model projects which indigenous groups could consider

Indigenous groups are encouraged to apply for grants from the Voluntary Fund for the International Year for Indigenous People.

The following is a list of ideas for projects which could be considered by indigenous groups.

The grant limit of US$ 10,000 will not enable large projects to be developed or large capital items to be purchased. However, these grants may provide very valuable seed funding to enable groups to draw attention to an issue, to exchange ideas with other groups, or to set up the initial administration for groups to lobby Governments. Many of the ideas under the public affairs heading may be carried out successfully for that amount.

Groups should be looking to Governments and large non-governmental organizations to match funds. Furthermore, once groups or small projects are established during 1993 and cases are established, it may be possible to seek further support from other sources to continue beyond 1993.

Human Rights

Seminars on particular human rights subjects

Research/exchange ideas on community initiatives for dealing with juvenile offenders

Assistance to research or distribute information about treaties, sovereignty

Assist groups to set up working groups to lobby for the return of skeletal remains

Assist community groups to collate information about traditional legal systems

Assist community groups to collate information about traditional decision-making processes

Development and Environment

Research projects on habitats

Research projects on environment

Manual on indigenous people and environment

Research projects on setting up cooperatives

Assist groups to document sacred sites

Assist groups to lobby for the preservation of sites of significance (rock art sites, etc.)

Assist groups to lobby for special museums or keeping places

Education and Culture

Recording of oral histories

Preservation of indigenous languages

Community access projects - funds to enable community elders to access historical records and to research documents relating to their communities

Funds to enable elders to visit schools to teach both indigenous and mainstream students about traditional culture

Health

Projects to assist women to deal with family violence

Projects to research/collect information on:

- traditional medicines;
- traditional foods/nutrition;
- traditional ways of caring for the ill;
- traditional child-care methods;
- traditional family/social caring networks.

Self-management and Self-government

Document traditional way that indigenous peoples have governed themselves

Public Events and Information

Conferences

Collect and publish traditional stories for children

Public speakers programme - to enable indigenous persons to address mainstream groups about indigenous affairs (funds for travel, accommodation, publicity, administration, etc.)

Exhibitions:

- arts and crafts;
- photography (both about and by indigenous people).

Social events:

- sporting (local/national/international).

Assistance to enable communities to produce films/videos on matters of significance to them

Funds to arrange opportunities for indigenous

- authors
- artists
- musicians
- dancers

to produce works to celebrate the Year, possibly with specific tribal themes

Production of special posters/newsletters by community groups to focus attention on:

- their communities;
- women;
- youth;
- children.

Produce cards/stationery with indigenous art for sale

B. Suggestions for initiatives which could be sponsored by Governments

There are many initiatives which Governments could sponsor to ensure a high profile for the International Year for the World's Indigenous People, yet which would not require substantial or even additional funding. Rather, by simply refocusing many of their routine activities, Governments could guarantee widespread attention and inspire national enthusiasm for the observance of the Year.

Most Governments have specialty agencies or departments which have specific mandates to administer such matters as legal affairs, the arts, libraries, museums, communications, health, housing, education and family services. Each of these agencies could make a particular effort to examine how their programmes impact on indigenous people during the Year and simply refocus activities to reflect increased consideration for indigenous concerns.

Governments could endorse ceremonial events, provide financial assistance for special discrete initiatives to highlight the Year and support certain more substantial initiatives to extend beyond the Year.

Initiatives should relate to the six major themes identified at the March Technical Meeting and should have a principal focus selected from one of the following categories:

- Human Rights;
- Development and Environment;
- Education and Culture;
- Health;
- Self-management and Self-government;
- Public Events and Information.

Governments should keep in mind that the main purposes of the Year are to further international cooperation between States and intergovernmental bodies to solve problems faced by indigenous peoples, to increase the participation of indigenous peoples in the planning, implementation and evaluation of projects and policies affecting them and, generally, to raise the awareness of the public about indigenous people.

Governments are encouraged to achieve these purposes through the development of special initiatives to celebrate the Year which take account of the above purposes. Examples of such initiatives are given below

(a) Initiatives with a human rights focus

Publish human rights information in local languages;

Publish information packages of legislation that is relevant to indigenous people in their languages;

Employ indigenous lawyers in government agencies responsible for legal affairs to work on the important issues of customary law, sovereignty and treaties;

Increase focus on land rights issues;

Increase support for the return of skeletal remains from foreign museums and institutions.

(b) Initiatives with a Development or Environment focus

Establish a special grants programme for the Year in order to increase indigenous access to funds for economic development;

Refocus guidelines for economic development/small business initiatives so that they take account of cultural needs and thus make programmes more accessible;

Increase affirmative action employment initiatives, for example in government civil services, to:

- Set targets for employment of indigenous persons;
- Initiate special recruitment activity during the Year;
- Increase opportunities for work experience for young people, to encourage them to join the civil service; and
- Increase access to career development training for indigenous civil servants;

Encourage private enterprise to employ more indigenous people and offer incentives, such as providing funds for special training programmes; consider ways to improve access of youth to apprenticeship schemes;

Encourage museums, art galleries and libraries to hold special exhibitions of indigenous works and employ indigenous peoples to prepare the exhibits and the associated brochures and publicity information. Indigenous persons could be employed as guides at the exhibitions;

Encourage indigenous initiatives in housing design and community planning;

Provide for environmentally sound indigenous resource management techniques to be researched and documented by indigenous persons. A number of these studies from different countries could be published as a tribute at the end of the Year.

(c) Initiatives with an Educational and Cultural focus

Establish processes for setting up indigenous support units in institutions offering tertiary education;

Encourage educational institutions to take account of indigenous issues at all levels of the education system both for mainstream and for indigenous students;

Determine and put into practice ways of increasing access to education for indigenous students and ways of increasing the student retention rate;

Provide grants for government school libraries to increase stocks of information about indigenous issues;

Arrange youth exchange tours both nationally and internationally.

(d) Initiatives with a Health focus

Make available health information in indigenous languages;

Employ indigenous liaison persons in hospitals and clinics;

Provide interpreter services in hospitals;

Seek to increase access to nursing and medical training;

Establish indigenous community health worker services;

Seek advice from indigenous health workers in other countries;

Arrange for governments with such services to send indigenous experts to advise indigenous groups in less developed countries.

(e) Initiatives with a Self-management and Self-government focus

Support research initiatives to examine ways that indigenous people have governed themselves traditionally;

Facilitate the distribution of relevant educational information about self-management and self-government to indigenous people in their languages;

Exchange experts between nations.

(f) Initiatives with a Public Events and Information focus

Recognize the official launch of the Year on 10 December 1992 by holding special ceremonies on that date;

Assist indigenous peoples to hold special ceremonies at the beginning of 1993 (provision of funds, statements by heads of State, time on national TV and radio and space in government publications);

Produce national maps in poster form for general distribution showing the distribution of indigenous peoples, their languages and interesting information about them. Brochures and facts sheets could be part of such an information package and indigenous people could be employed on the project as researchers and design artists;

Include indigenous concerns on the agendas of all government-sponsored conferences during the Year;

Provide funds for indigenous peoples' conferences;

Prepare a national database of information about indigenous people;

Prepare a national directory of indigenous groups and organizations;

Issue special stamps and coins with designs by indigenous artists;

Ensure, throughout the year, that there is increased focus on indigenous issues in the media. Funding could be provided for the production of special TV programmes and newsletters;

Relate government statements, where possible, to indigenous concerns; this should be reflected in ministerial press releases;

During 1993, Publications generated by government agencies could:

- Have cover designs acknowledging the Year and using indigenous artwork;
- Run special issues illustrating how their agencies' work affects indigenous people;
- Ensure that information brochures are issued in indigenous languages;
- Make particular efforts to advise indigenous people of services available to them;

- Hold national competitions for indigenous children and adults in the fields of literature and drama, art and photography. The idea could be extended to a national competition for all children or adults, with competitions having indigenous issues as their theme, in order to increase awareness in the mainstream community;

- Encourage indigenous speakers programmes;

- Facilitate exchanges of artists and other indigenous experts;

- Support national and international tours in the fields of sport and the arts;

- Observe special days during the year acknowledging specific groups like women, children, the aged and the disabled, tying in with an international focus. Where such themes are observed, there should be a special effort to highlight the needs of indigenous people in those groups.

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